

10-29-1890

Ida to Sis, October 29, [1890]

Ida Honoré Grant

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/fdg-and-ihg-correspondence>

Preferred Citation

[Title of Document], Frederick Dent Grant and Ida Honoré Grant Papers, Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, Mississippi State University Libraries

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Frederick Dent Grant and Ida Honore Grant Papers at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com.

Veina Oct 29th

1890?

Dear Sis, No ~~you~~ of course,
know, I was really quite de-
lighted to get a letter from ~~you~~
again, having been rather
left out by ~~you~~ all lately.
I knew just how that was
however, when ~~you~~ were just
of all, so occupied at
Lucy, then going to New York,
where one never has a
moment to think, and then
on to Chicago where ~~you~~
had oceans of duties etc
to take up ~~your~~ time and

thoughts - I was of course,
intensely interested in and
pleased with, the "Article" you
enclosed - We had read
in all the papers before, of
your being sure of being
Chosen for the position, but
I did not know whether you
would decide to accept it,
as of course, the 'World's Fair'
will be a mammoth under-
taking, but as Mrs Logan
says it is a letter which I have
just received from her,
"Mrs Palmer will have her
hands full in administering

the affairs of the Roman's Department, but
she will do it all beautifully". Now that you
have entered into something of a public or
official Character, how you will find your-
self over-run with petitions, applications etc.
Of this I already have some knowledge,
and speaking of all your own cares, I
am forced to mention Mr H. E. Dawson,
who was General Grant's stenographer and
who has already written Fred a long letter
begging that we recommend him to you,
as he has written you, he says begging for
a position. It really is not unpleasant for me
to mention him, as he is one of the most sim-
ple, unobtrusive and capable men in his
line that could be ever seen or imagined.
We really were quite enthusiastic over his

great application to work,
and attention to all that was
on hand to be done. Besides
being one of the most capable
stenographers in the country, as
a secretary he is quite perfect,
never offering opinions, but
always showing judgment
and good sense, able to compre-
hend — Therefore, he is a good
machine, with intelligence —
I can see I really do recom-
mend which I could not do
if I did not know all about
him — For instance we have

here a splendid Clerk, who
knows all languages to read &
write, and is excellent in this
particular place, but he has
lost a train of sense, which
Mr. Dawson has comprised
with poor principles, and
the power to keep silent, even
when he was offered, to our
knowledge, \$100 by reporters for
one piece of news at the McGee
which they themselves, afterwards,
admitted he declined to give.
They told them about it lately how
they found of course
my wife to find out about Madam.
You will take him or not

Which ever you decide, I only want to ask one
thing and that is that you write him a
few lines (this you could not do I know, usually)
Just today you cannot escape or can, and
why not mention that we have mentioned
him with praise - This will be a kindness
to us, as he has seemed to feel that you might
think him forward and to tell you the truth
we are quite anxious not to have him feel
that we overlooked in this case - As he
knows he was right in our honor-hold and
heard expressed that was uttered there
"Badeau Case" and all included - He has
been always righteously and truthfully, but
has lately been tempted into writing newspaper
articles for Mr. Hutton, and we are willing
always, not to mortally offend a writer in
these days of their power, and Mr. Carson

^{John}
has written Fred a long letter
about getting a position through
you or Mr. Palmer connected
with the "Fair", so we would be
really obliged, if you would
not answer, wherever you
you find proper, and say
that we spoke a word for him
as he would feel hard if he
thought we didn't, since Fred
in his kind feeling, promised
him when he left us, to always
give a good word or helping
hand for him, when he could.
His conduct compared

& Baden's was such a striking
contrast - In fact he acted
beautifully about that whole
affair - When things were
most unpleasant for Fred, doing
all he could to keep out the
case quite voluntarily, without
being asked by anyone, which
was wonderful, when we saw
how mean others could be -

I am as surprised to hear
that Honoré is really off at
school. You do not mention
where. I want to know.
It seems hard to give them

no interest, as young boys, but it seems
that their contact in, and career in the
world must begin about Bonore's age. I am
sure he will be very brave and all that you
could expect of him, and you will
now be so occupied, as not to sit down
to do much depending over his absence.
I want to hear more about him and Jim.

Our children are really studying hard &
doing well, we feel; and of course they
have advantages here, not more than at
home for rich fortunate ones, can give
your children of course, but we really
had not enough (I was rapidly finding
out) to give our children an ordinary edu-
cation at home, and life besides ourselves.
So you may well imagine, we are thankful it
is as well with us as it is, and Fred laughs

at me, I dread so the time coming
 when we must give up a good
 comfortable living, and advan-
 tages for the children, to go home
 to what will seem truly little,
 in that rich country, where
very one now must have a
 fortune to keep up at all. I
 was getting rather tired of the
 struggle we had to make in
 our position, to appear as
 people expected us to and try
 to look out for the children's
 interests - I am really very

sorry for Julia that we shall
be leaving her when she is
just 17 and almost ^{wish} she were
older, that she might have
had the pleasant experience
of going into society a little, at
this Court, where her Papa's Offi-
cial rank would make it
so charming for her; where as
his daughter she would be in-
cluded in any ceremonies at
Court; and where we really
have enough to occasionally
get her a dress and have a
carriage to take her to the

entertainments - It would have been an agree-
able memory for her always, but at the same
time it is charming for her as a young girl,
for her to have the educational advantages, here.
All the numerous lessons she has put together
cost not half, what the really very good and clear
instructions she had, cost in New York and our
boy is at a really very fine school where he learns
everything and the whole expense, for his studies,
comes to less than \$100 a year (because of his being
an extern) - I do not send him as a boarder
as I find he studies quite as well going from home
and perhaps better - and besides, I rather believe in
home influences for one to grow - He is doing
much better and more easily this year than last
has had really many compliments the teacher
having asked the trustees once or twice, why

11th
They did not try to learn as
well as the young American.
It is unusual as they do not
care for foreigners, and ^{when they are} ~~they~~ board-
ers, make them pay double the
price — Arithmetic is our day's
favorite and easiest study.
He sits beside the two sons of the
"Turkish Theoria" and you
know the former King of Spain
was educated here — He ^{the King} then
married one of these Arch-
bishops, who is now most
popular in Spain as Regent.
You may well imagine, as

we have nothing to go back to,
^{as a living}
Now I fine and hope that
something may turn up, in
the way of politics, that this
President of re-election might
keep Fred here a year or two
longer at least if not for an
other term, and now I do
hope the Democrats may not
come in power next time.
Sen and Mr Palmer must be
too busy with the great Fair
to give any attention to the
election of a Democrat in
93 - Don't please think of it.

Julia could then really have a little fun, as the
daughter of her father, while her brother would (being
quite young) continue to have chances here in
education, which I fear alas, he will lose
of his papa must step down and out in
93 - Perhaps, though, even if they staid in, the
President and Secretary might not want him
again. No one knows. So we must enjoy every
thing we have and I count the hours we
have it - I'm know I didn't hesitate to work for this.
You speak of dressing - ^{my clothes} I begin to think I have
written you of the very elegant new Green Colored,
short and feathered trimmed suit, I have
had "Brecolle" make for this fall, which I am
bed is pretty and becoming - Then you know
he made me a new very elegant dark green
embroidered & trimmed with my fur coat which
which is very stylish and good and I shall

21st

also, you may be sure in
high and solemn calls, upon
Princess Arshoukhe and the
Countess Loiz, near the very
elephant Hotel Bellet with
black braiding over lighter shade
which is beautiful, and for which
I will have a new hat or bonnet
this season — such an elegant
costume can only be worn occa-
sionally here, as the ladies make
a great point, those of high circle,
of dressing most simply in
the street always. And the
young girls are never allowed

to put on anything like re-
spect or sick - As the rich families
and their children, here, do all
the fancy dressing, one has to
fall into the fashion of the
higher ones in power, who are
only fine on state occasions
or at the balls, when then their
dressing and jewels are really
superb - At the private soirées
they are more simple, their
servants only, are finely gotten
up - I often think you would
be amused to see us, how we
rejoice in all the nice things
we have - How pleased I am

To see our little boy in his nice clothes, espe-
ally boots, dress-suit, and puffed shirts; he will
not have to buy anything for indoors wear
for over a year to come, and is as proud of his
things as I am of mine - Having seen a black suit
over pink at Dreccoll's, with feather trimmed skirt,
I came home to look at the one I have, of
which the black lace over dress and feather
the (pink and black) is so much finer than that
Dreccoll had just from Paris, that I have had
it entirely made over, long, in skirt behind, &c.
And it is a most light, beautiful, becoming dress.
Nothing could be more appropriate for the little
soiree's they have here. I had also my own
long plum-colored velvet and tulle dress, en-
tirely made over for the house, the one I had
at Arnold's when I was married, and now
I am having for these numerous gifts.

25th
That dinner for Americans, at-
home here, the Green Velvet,
with brocade front over pink,
which was made in London
by the same one who made my
Brown Velvet and Yellow, (the
latter was given up last winter
with yellow feathers in the neck
and was very useful - This
Green and pink will be
beautiful this year - As to
the evening dresses, I have
all that until later as we
never know about mourning
etc, until after Christmas

Nothing occurs until then;
these sensible Austrian Pri-
vocrats will not tire them-
selves, with so much fatigue.

They never stay here late
and remain in the beauti-
ful County Chateau, until
nearly Christmas Time, returning
into the city for a day, when
they choose; but never even
making a visit until Dec-
-ber late. — It is a very sensible,
useful life, as a continual
rush is certainly most wearying
and tiresome under the best

of circumstances — The Ambassadors and
Ministers of the Foreign Office must be here
or near by, but all keep out, by agreement, of
the least party until Jan. 1st. — This I like, as
I think ~~for~~ existence ideal, when one only
goes in society for a month or two — Fred and
I were really for domestic beings, ^{made} and accidentally
have been so. — I am not so fond as I seem.

Fred is perfectly charmed at having been asked
to the "Royal Hunt Time", went today, 20
Happy — It is a Compliment paid to "Chaps of the
who shoot, and the first year, Fred was asked.
The saying of "slips" here is, that the "Austrian
Aristocrats do not see for the first year,
the second year they look at you, and
the ~~first~~ third year they know you". This
as you know, we have not found exactly
the case, having been entertained by
some of them already. — I rather admire

their etiquette, and think
them in manner, quite the
perfection of good breeding,
if they are proud. Fred
says he never saw such
magnificent "shots" as these
gentlemen are, it is a science
to ^{have} ^{they are} ^{target} shooting.

He has told me privately, that
he felt "very proud of his own
shooting" - he killed 40 hares.
I don't know what he will do
today - My paper is used
up and I am sure for in-
crease if you have tried to
read this scrawl. Do write, write